

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR LEMELLE

FOL GENEVA 09041 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN JUNE 14, 1978
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY

REF: A) STATE 137938, B) GENEVA 08887

1. MISSION IS FORWARDING TO DEPARTMENT A SET OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN JURISTS ON "AFRICAN LEGAL PROCESS AND THE INDIVIDUAL" WHICH WAS CONVENED AT ADDIS ABABA, APRIL 1971, BY THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA. OPERATIVE PARAS 5 AND 6 OF RESOLUTION 3 READS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE 5. WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE BETTER PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED FURTHER:

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(I) THAT AN AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BE ESTABLISHED AND CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COLLECTING AND CIRCULATING INFORMATION RELATING TO LEGISLATION AND DECISIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANNUAL REPORTS DEVOTED TO THE QUESTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN AFRICA;

(II) THAT AN AFRICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BE
CONCLUDED;

(III) THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO HARMONIZE LEGISLATION
IN THE DIFFERENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD;

(IV) THAT AN ADVISORY BODY BE ESTABLISHED TO WHICH
RECOURSE MAY BE HAD FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS
OF THE AFRICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS; AND

(V) THAT THE VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES BE URGED TO TAKE
SPEEDY MEASURES TO ACCEED TO OR RATIFY THE INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, THE INTERNA-
TIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THE OAU
CONVENTION GOVERNING SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS
IN AFRICA.

6. THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
AFORESAID UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR HELD IN CAIRO IN 1969
ENTRUSTING THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WITH THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR
AFRICA AND INVITES THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
TO HASTEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAID RECOMMENDATIONS
TAKING ACCOUNT OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
THAT HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN THIS
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CONNEXION. UNQUOTE

2. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS EITHER WALDHEIM OR
NIGERIA AS PROPOSED IN REF B, MISSION BELIEVES THIS
RESOLUTION SHOULD BE CALLED TO THEIR ATTENTION; IN THE
FIRST INSTANCE BECAUSE THE MACHINERY PROPOSED IS FAR
SUPERIOR TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE
ARE INFORMED ABOUT AND SECONDLY IT COMES FROM AFRICANS
LOOKING FOR THE PROPER MACHINERY FOR THEIR REGION.

3. A COMPLETE SET OF THE RESOLUTIONS FROM 1971 MEETING
ARE BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH TO THE DEPARTMENT IO/HR,
HEWITT, UNDER REGISTRY NUMBER 0999424. VANDEN HEUVEL
UNQUOTE VANCE

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